

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of State Parks
Honolulu, Hawaii

June 10, 2010

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

SUBJECT: Request for Permission for the Soka Gakkai International – USA to Construct Rest Area and Peace Circle at the Millennium Peace Garden, Diamond Head State Monument

Soka Gakkai International–USA (SGI-USA) requests permission to build several features within the Millennium Peace Garden of Diamond Head State Monument (SM). These features include a rest area (“node”) that will also serve as a component of the Diamond Head Linear Park, a “peace circle” with plaques containing quotations advocating peace in the lower section of the Millennium Peace Garden, rebuilding sections of the historic rock walls that have collapsed, installing a new sign identifying the "Millennium Peace Garden," and installing plant identification signs (Attachment 1).

Soka Gakkai International (Society for the Creation of Value) is a worldwide Buddhist association and is registered as a 501.c.3 non-for-profit in the United States. It is a grassroots movement of global citizens working for world peace and individual happiness based on the values of peace, culture and education. The SGI encompasses over 12 million members in more than 190 countries and territories.

SGI-USA has assisted State Parks since 1985 when SGI–USA planted native trees at Diamond Head SM as part of Governor Ariyoshi’s “million trees of aloha.” In addition, SGI–USA has been an active partner in caring for and providing financial support to the Millennium Peace Garden on the exterior slopes of Diamond Head SM. As part of these projects, the Department has previously agreed to allow SGI–USA to place monument plaques to commemorate these projects. The Millennium Peace Garden was planted in 1999 by participants of the Millennium Young People’s Congress to commemorate this event. SGI-USA has joined other community groups to insure the care and improvement of this site.

The Diamond Head Linear Park will be located along the exterior slopes of Diamond Head crater from the site of the Cannon Club to 22nd Avenue (Attachment 2). This Linear Park will consist of a 12-foot wide paved and ADA accessible multi-use path with six (6) rest areas and three (3) parking areas built along the length of the path. The rest areas will include benches and 3 of the rest areas will incorporate picnic tables. The entry to the path incorporates walls with cut basalt that maintain the historic look of the walls in the area and a sign identifying the “Diamond Head Linear Park.”

The Linear Park is proposed in the 2003 Diamond Head SM Master Plan and represents the first phase of park improvements to be implemented from this master plan. A portion of the Capital Improvement Project (C.I.P.) funding appropriated for Diamond Head SM by the Legislature in 2007 will be used to construct a major portion of the Linear Park path. However, the Department does not have sufficient funding to construct the entire length of the Linear Park as designed and therefore, is being done in two phases.

The Department's Recreational Renaissance Plan features the Linear Park as a major element. In addition, the Division of State Parks has been working with several community groups, the tourism industry, and other interested parties to fund and/or build various components of the Linear Park, such as the rest areas. SGI-USA is the first community partner to commit to assisting with the Linear Park by building the designed rest area in the Millennium Peace Garden.

SGI-USA's work will be in accordance with the approved designs for the Linear Park. In addition, SGI – USA will utilize the State Parks sign standards for the new "Millennium Peace Garden" name sign. State Parks will work with the Engineering Division to insure that the construction of the rest area and walls meet the required design and construction standards. State Parks will eventually take responsibility for the maintenance of these structures as part of the Linear Park. SGI-USA has agreed to maintain the "peace circle" and signs for a period of 10 years and will repair these structures as needed. State Parks and SGI-USA will develop a Memorandum of Agreement to reflect this commitment.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board grant approval to SGI – USA to construct the following within the Millennium Peace Garden at Diamond Head State Monument:

1. Rest area that conforms to the DLNR design for the Diamond Head Linear Park,
2. "Peace circle" with plaques containing quotations advocating peace,
3. Rebuild sections of the historic rock walls within the Millennium Peace Garden that have collapsed in conformance with the historic style of these walls,
4. Install a sign identifying the "Millennium Peace Garden," and
5. Install plant identification signs.

This approval will be subject to conditions as may be imposed by the Department, the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and/or the Chairperson.

That the Board approve delegating to the Chairperson future approval of requests to construct components of the Diamond Head Linear Park in accordance with the DLNR approved design for the Linear Park.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel S. Quinn
State Parks Administrator

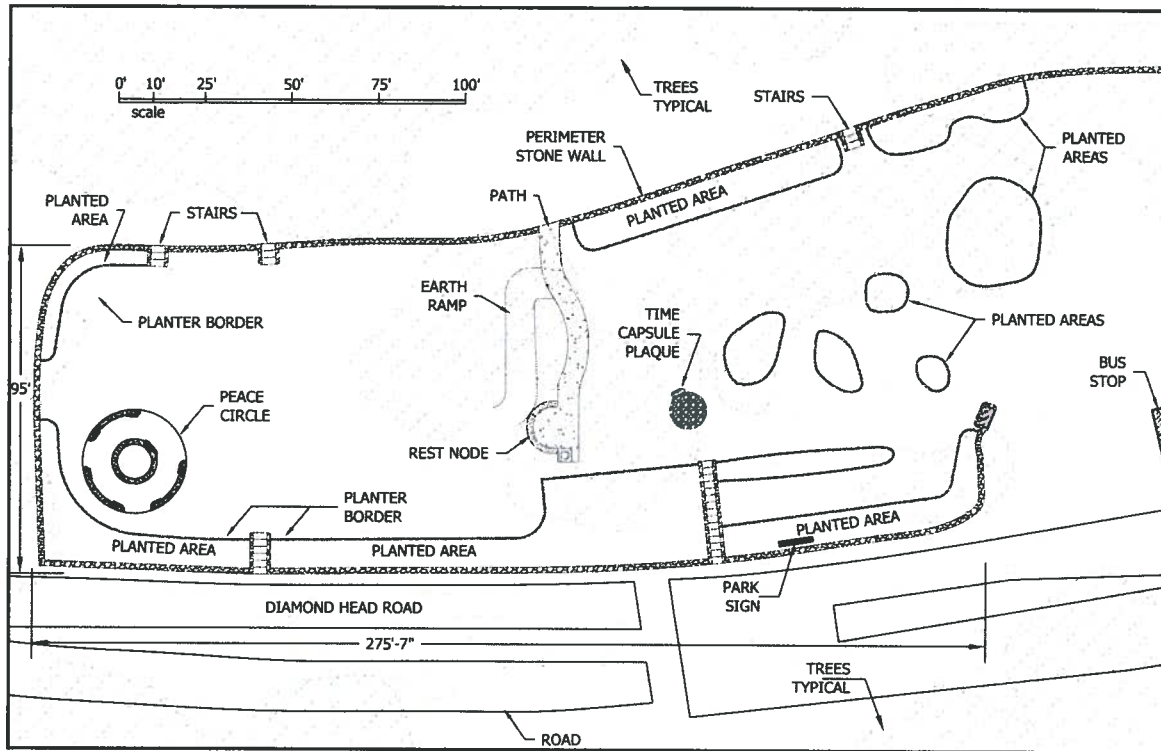
APPROVE FOR SUBMITTAL:



LAURA H. THIELEN, Chairperson

Attachments

ATTACHMENT 1 PLANS FOR MILLENNIUM PEACE GARDEN BY SGI-USA

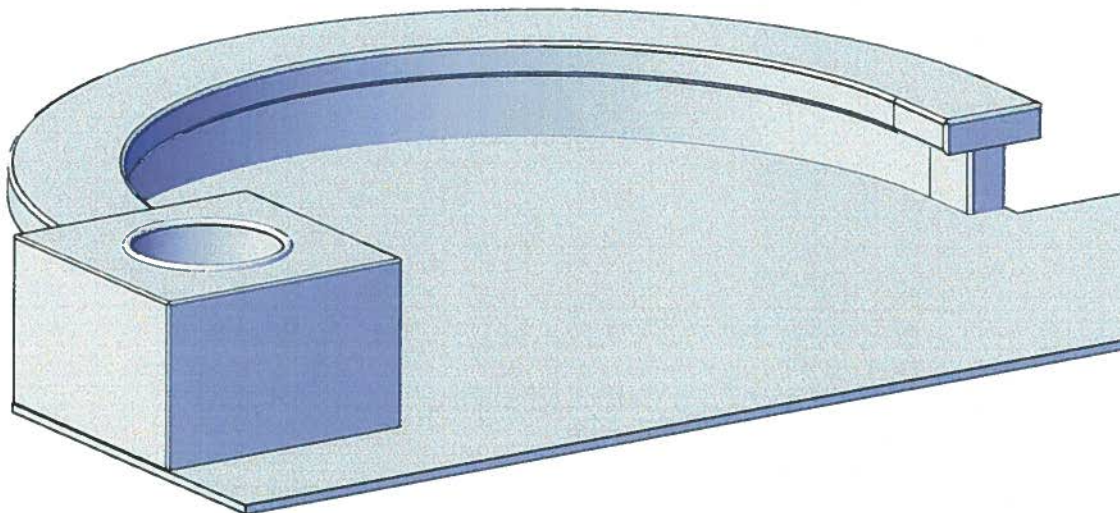


Layout of proposed rest “node” and peace circle within the Millennium Peace Garden as designed by SGI-USA following the approved State Parks’ design for the Linear Park.

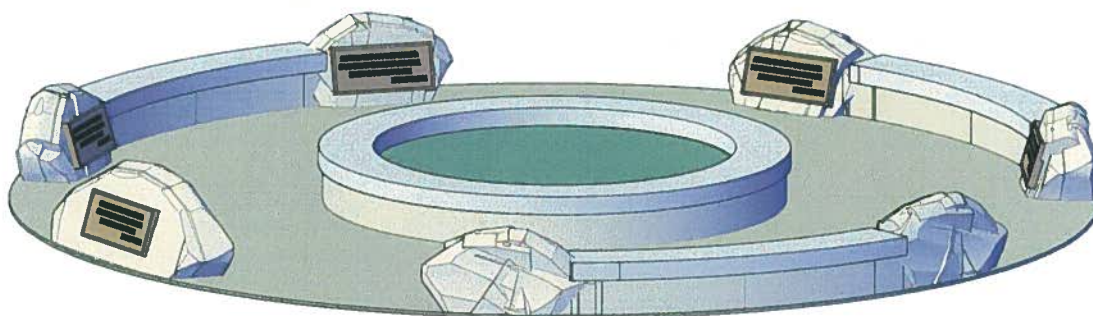


Options for the Millennium Peace Garden sign in conformance with park sign standards.





Concrete rest area ("node," 17' diameter) with bench to be constructed by SGI within the Millennium Peace Garden. This rest area will eventually be linked to the Diamond Head Linear Park path.



Schematic of the peace circle (30' diameter) consisting of concrete benches and basalt boulders with a dedication plaque and other plaques that contain quotations about peace.

The Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda Millennium Peace Circle

Ua mau ke 'ea o ka'aina i ka pono
The life of the land is perpetuated
in righteousness

**Nothing is more precious than peace.
Nothing brings more happiness.
Peace is the most basic starting point
for the advancement of humankind.**
Daisaku Ikeda

Dedicated October 2, 2010

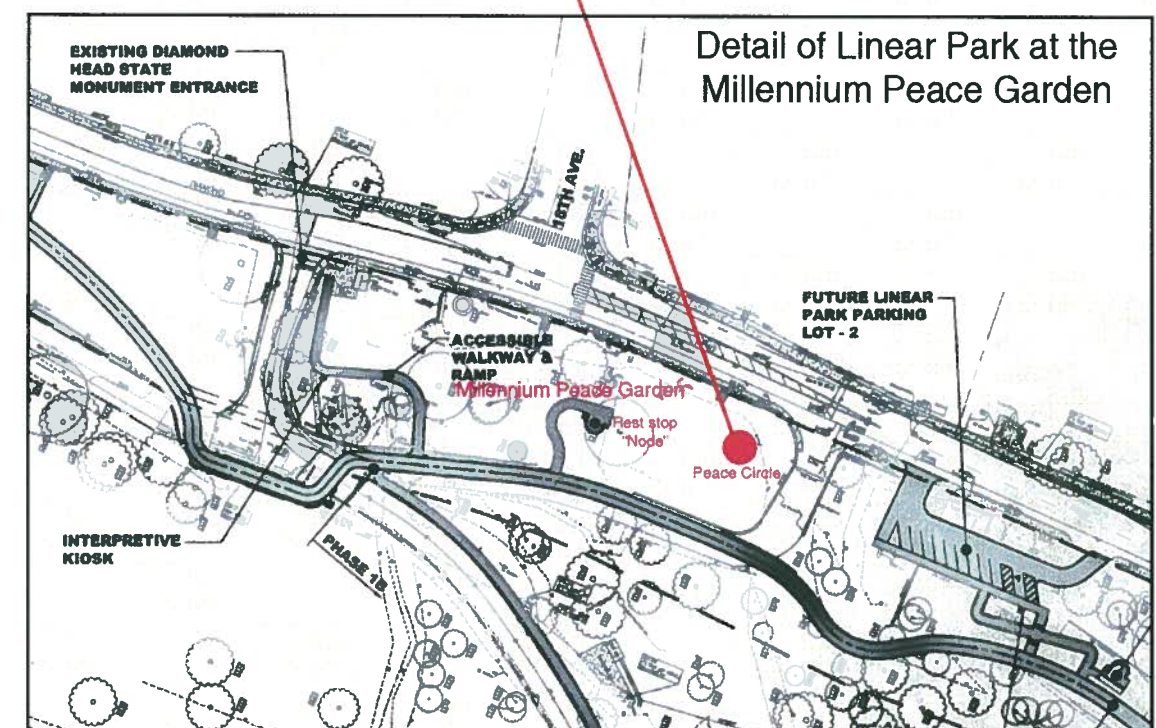
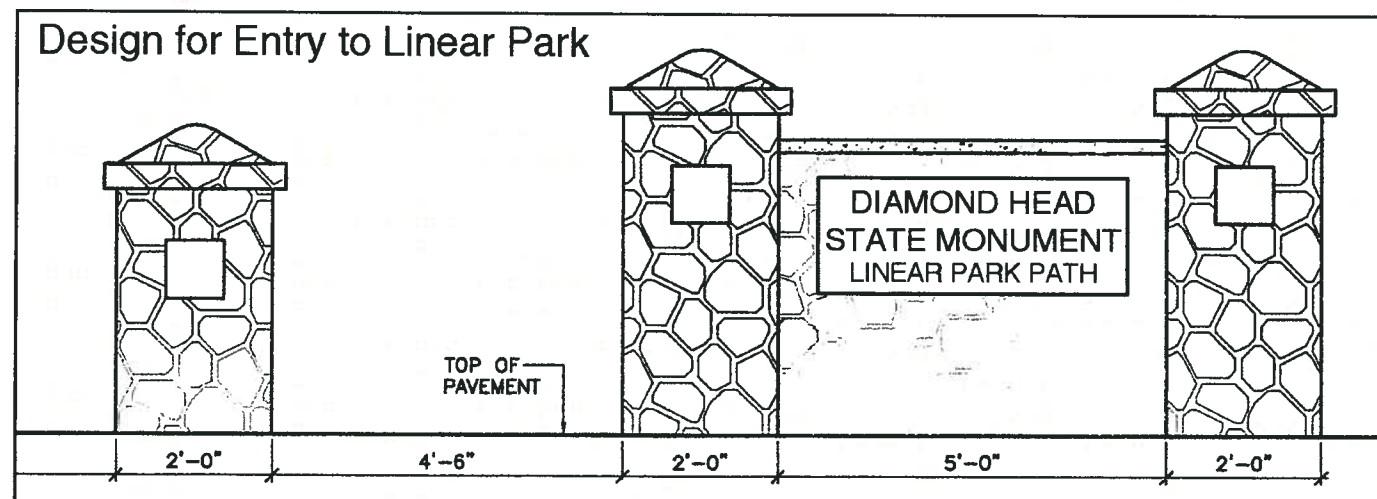
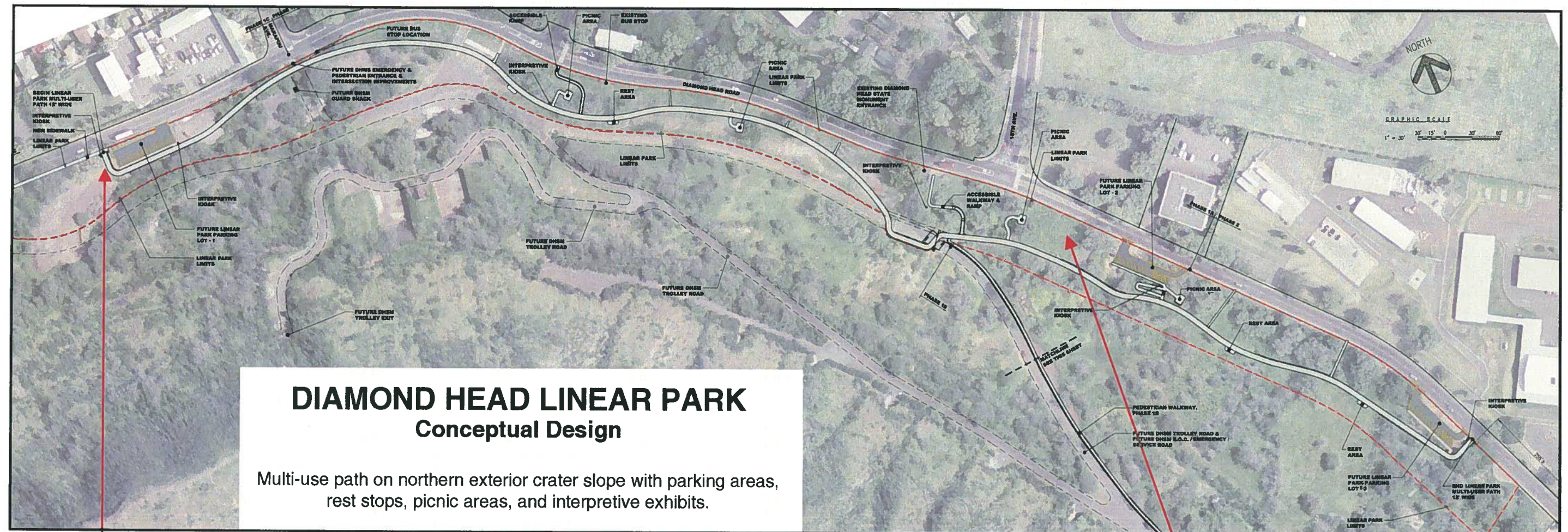
Only peace can be won and winning peace
means not only avoiding armed conflict but
finding ways of eradicating the causes of
individual and collective violence: injustice
and oppression, ignorance and poverty,
intolerance and discrimination.

Federico Mayor

You must remember never to cease to act
because you fear you may fail.

Queen Lili'uokalani

Dedication plaque (left) and sample of peace quotations to be placed around the circle.



ATTACHMENT 2
CONCEPTUAL PLAN FOR DIAMOND HEAD LINEAR PARK